

P R O P O S A L S
FOR ERECTING AN
A C A D E M Y
ON A
NEW AND EXTENSIVE PLAN,
I N
Monmouth-House, Soho-Square,
LATELY OCCUPIED BY THE
FRENCH AND RUSSIAN AMBASSADORS.

P R O T O C O L

A C A D E M Y

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NEW AND IMPROVED PLAN

Monmouth-House, Scho-square

FRENCH AND RUSSIAN AMBASSADORS

I N T R O D U C T I O N.

AS mankind are continually endeavouring to extend the sciences, and to perfect the arts ; in like manner, the various branches of education afford room for improvement, a point of such importance, that its influence extends to the end of our lives.

The Glory of their country, the Honour of their parents, as well as their own Happiness, depends on the education of children.

If properly understanding these three particulars, is held as the fundamental object of education, the children of Nature will be constantly maintained in an exact observance of their duty both towards God and towards mankind.

The heat of youth, the violence of the passions may, for a time, burst the bounds both of Duty and Virtue ; but it is only an intoxication of the senses, in which the mind is not engaged ; the bitter remorse ever attendant on this softly-stealing, poison, soon gives room for Reason to regain her wonted empire ; the errors of Conduct are seen, and abjured with pleasure, and the kind impressions of Education have again full scope. What follows ? A small portion of true wisdom is gained ; though small, it, magnet-like, attracts the other virtues ; and man, assisted by a careful Education, becomes more pure, and tends toward perfection.

Yet, how should man, ignorant of real good, and the means that lead to it, know how to improve himself ; it is necessary to that end, that he should have been previously acquainted with the beauties of Nature : that he be accustomed to compare the works of men with

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those of the Creator; by this means, being gradually convinced of the difference between perfection and imperfection, his mind will be naturally elevated towards that which is truly beautiful, truly perfect, and will discover insensibly the infinity of the Creator; his admiration will lead him to love, and the love of God will lead him to the love of his creatures.

If, after these acquirements, he is introduced to the history of famous men, he will not only learn to know, but perhaps also to imitate them: after this, General History, as a preparative to Geography, will acquaint him with the revolutions of empires, in which the wickedness of men will give him a horror of vice in a greater degree, as he had been before grounded in what is good and virtuous.

In this situation, his peculiar genius will be most easily displayed, because his mind, already elevated, will make choice of such subjects only, as may still further excite him, or at least enable him to maintain himself in an equal poise. Finally, the child, without perceiving it, will walk in the paths of Virtue, and consequently of Happiness; he may still sometimes err (for Error is the inseparable fate of Humanity) but he will recover, and Anteus-like, acquire strength from every fall.

It appears to me, that the education of children has, till the present time, been confined to teaching them Latin and Greek, and some rules of arithmetic; as if the knowledge of those languages, and the dry art of accompts, included all the advantages of a compleat education. Those whose fortunes have permitted them to go farther, only murder the French tongue, walk in a minuet step, and unrestrained, continually take in vain the sacred name of God: that such is generally the acquired knowledge of a youth of eighteen, I appeal to you, tender relations, who have spared no expence to bring them up properly.

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These are not the only inconveniencies of the modern plan of education; the natural, though blind indulgence, shewn towards children, helps to ruin their constitutions and to hurt their health; it renders them subject to a variety of disorders, the more incurable as the infection is taken in the first bud of youth, and contracted (at the time in which the foundations ought to be constructed of the best materials) by neglecting to choose such kinds of food as are most proper for them: besides this, the child buys all kinds of fruit, every trash that falls in his way; drinks in secret whatever he sees drank, porter, wine, or perhaps even spirituous liquors; as he drinks without thirst, so he eats without hunger, and sits down to table with a palled appetite; his blood becomes heated, exercise (frequently too violent) compleats the inflammation; and study, for which he is not prepared, becomes irksome, and only so much time thrown away; the child is blamed for the slowness of his progress in learning, and perhaps is corrected; whilst in justice 'tis the scholar who ought to correct the corrector, for the little regard he pays, to preparing him properly for study, and for meals.

On the other side, there are such as boast of a good education, who speak French without knowing English, are good arithmeticians without writing tolerably, are masters of fencing and not able to read properly; it would be tedious to enumerate all the neglects in education, and principally of the particular attention that should be given in order that the children may not only pronounce their own tongue with elegance, but also thoroughly understand it; as likewise to bring them to a good hand writing, and accustom them to acquit themselves in every part with propriety. Education can only be perfected gradually, there is need of contrivance in the distribution of the several branches, and a proper time for sowing the seed, as well as for that in the earth.

Due art is also required in preparing them for the reception of this seed, as likewise to excite their wishes, Emulation gives the vegetating heat, and renders them fertile.

Wholesome food, properly prepared and regulated; moderate but constant exercise, with a restriction from fruits (except at meals) and all trash, are the preparers and guardians of health; health forms the constitution, and persons in this salutary state are more adapted to instruction.

The two points which ought to be inseparably united, for educating youth compleatly, in the space of nine years, are, not to give too nice an attention to establish their health, nor to urge them forward with too much precipitation.

Such are the objects of this plan.

P L A N.

P L A N.

Article

- I. **T**HE Plan of this new Academy has not only for its object to procure a compleat education for youth, in the space of eight or nine years, but also that of founding a useful establishment in favour of a body, whose merit does not often meet with the encouragement it deserves.
- II. One hundred and fifty gentlemen will be admitted by subscription into this Academy, where they will be instructed in all the sciences that men are desirous of being acquainted with; the best masters in every branch will teach them, and no expence will be spared to procure such as are most celebrated, the whole expence of which will be paid by the Academy.
- III. Every gentleman will pay annually One Hundred Guineas; also Ten Guineas entrance, and the same sum on quitting the Academy.
- IV. Under the patronage of these hundred and fifty young gentlemen, thirty clergymens sons, natives of England, will receive the same education, and be lodged, boarded, and attended in the same manner during seven or nine years, without any expence.
- V. The clergymens sons will be admitted only from six to eight years old, the others at any age.
- VI. When any of the clergymens sons, after being compleatly educated, shall quit the Academy, they will be presented with One Hundred Pounds each, to assist them in their studies; such clergymen as would prefer the cloathing their children during the seven or nine years they are in the Academy to the above sum,
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will be at liberty to choose, only it is expected that they are decently cloathed, and furnished with necessaries on coming in.

VII. Each young gentleman will lay alone, in a new neat bed; the bed will be composed of two good matrasses, a feather-bed, three blankets and a counterpane. They will lay upon one of the matrasses, the feather-bed in the middle; the chambers, though large and airy, will not be crouded; and there will be a sufficient number of ushers and domestics near them by night as well as day.

VIII. The bread will be made at home, by an experienced baker, with the best flour and greatest care.

IX. The beer will also be brewed at home, of the best materials, and of a proper degree of strength for the children.

X. The butter will be fresh every day from the dairy, as well as the milk from cows belonging to the house.

XI. The linnen will be all washed at home.

XII. All that the young gentlemen eat or drink shall be well chosen, well prepared, and in a neat manner.

XIII. A very large and handsome cold bath lined with marble, will always be ready for the gentlemens use.

XIV. Once a month there will be a concert performed by the best masters, from five o'clock till eight; to which, if the gentlemens relations, with some of their friends, are pleased to come, their company will be deemed an honour.

XV. A French play will be acted by the young students three successive days every year; after which, prizes for eloquence, history, memory, poetry, and composition will be distributed. Those who have, in the course of the year, practised any particular virtue, shewn any distinguished talent, or performed any good action, will also be rewarded.

XVI. The

XVI. The prizes will be excellent books in quarto or folio, well bound, and adorned with the arms of the academy; at the instant that they receive the prize, a crown of laurel will be publickly put on their heads, amidst the sound of trumpets and acclamations; their relations and friends, the nobility and foreign ministers will be invited.

XVII. Twice a week the whole college will take a little tour into the country; and once a month, divided into four companies, they will dine out of town at the expence of the academy, accompanied by the ushers and domestics. They will also frequently take the air in the fine mornings that sometimes happen in winter. On the foregoing account, a country-house, with a spacious garden, will be provided three or four miles from London; the house will contain six or eight beds, for the reception of such as may be on the recovery, or whose friends, residing at too great a distance from London, cannot conveniently have their children home at the usual vacations.

XVIII. There will be an infirmary in a house adjoining to the academy, with a door of communication between them. The children will there be managed with the greatest care by proper persons. A regular physician engaged by the academy will visit the children every day, in dangerous disorders a consultation will be necessary, for my satisfaction as well as that of the relations. It would be desirable that the children were inoculated before they entered the academy; nevertheless, this point will not be insisted on farther than where it is agreeable to the relations, as many have a natural and invincible repugnance to this precaution.

XIX. The children will never be flogged or struck, but they will be punished by different kinds of shame; a rod of roses will be
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the instrument of their correction, but the thorns will not be plucked from it; in great offences they will be tried and judged by their schoolfellows; proper, but temporary judges, will be chosen amongst them for this purpose, according to their knowledge; delinquent judges will be punished very severely by the majority of voices of the whole college.

XX. There will be a large chapel, with an organ, belonging to the academy. A learned minister, of unblemished character, will perform divine service and preach on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays; read prayers morning and evening, which I should wish might be short, but fervent, and pronounced with that tender and majestic tone in which God ought to be addressed. Twice a week he will give some short lectures on religion, the rest of his employment will be to teach Latin, and to preside over the pronunciation and purity of the English language. This minister will be chosen by the ballot of the subscribers, his salary will be One Hundred Pounds per annum, but a power will be reserved in me to displace him, in case he does not act agreeable to the intentions of the foundation. He will have a curate, who will be the master for Greek, and assistant for Latin, his salary will be Fifty Pounds per annum, and will also be chosen by the subscribers.

Those whose friends desire them to go to the parish church will sit by turns in a pew belonging to the academy.

XXI. Every Sunday a dinner will be given to twelve poor people; twelve of the young gentlemen by turns will be present, and attend behind each of them to see that nothing is wanting: after dinner each poor person will receive from the hands of each young gentleman, with respect and politeness, a quartern loaf

loaf and half a crown. These poor persons should be chosen from amongst such whose modesty prevents a public application for charity, should be honest and decently dressed: none will be admitted without a ticket; each of the One Hundred and Fifty Subscribers will have three tickets at their disposal every year, which makes Four Hundred and Fifty, the remaining One Hundred and Seventy-four will be distributed by people of property who have worthy poor to recommend, and by my particular friends and benefactors.

XXII. Proper masters will be procured for teaching Greek, Latin, Italian, French, Mathematics, Geography, Drawing, Musick (particularly the harpsicord and violin) Dancing, Fencing, &c. and no expence will be incurred by the parents for instruments, books of musick, foils, &c. (but such as chuse their own case of instruments, violin, &c. will be at liberty to please themselves) the academy will furnish every thing necessary for the children both for their board and education, except Books, without any other expence than the One Hundred Guineas. The books distributed as prizes will be at the expence of the academy, as mentioned before.

XXIII. Every child will be taught agreeable to his natural inclination, without being forced: it will be deemed sufficient to understand the dead languages, and speak such as are living; they will not grow pale over such books of divinity and philosophy as tend only to introduce doubts and disputation; if they are informed of the generality of philosophical systems, it will only be to shew them their vanity. They will read the history of famous men as their patterns, they will be taught by the best authors who have treated both of study and nature. Rhetoric will be peculiarly attended to, to form orators, an essential

point for members of parliament, but it will be constantly recommended to them to be more liberal of fact than flourish.

There are many other particulars which I reserve in petto, and which will be added to this plan, and executed both with prudence and discretion. Finally, no endeavours will be spared to render my scholars both good men and good citizens, as good men they will be happy in themselves, as good citizens they will be useful to their country.

To conclude. To render education agreeable to children, to make them delight in their duty, in their tasks and business, to make Virtue their free choice, to render them beneficent naturally, so that like Marcus Aurelius they never go to bed without having performed some good action in the compass of their sphere, to make them hate idleness, to accustom them to contemplate nature, and be sensible of her beauties, to love their Author, to fear and adore him; are the labours I have embraced, and which, by the divine assistance, I shall execute; happy, should it please him to bless my undertaking; glorious if I may deserve the approbation of this nation, the esteem of parents, and the friendship of their children.

END OF THE PLAN.

If their Majesties, or any Nobleman or Gentleman approving this plan, should be desirous of subscribing without sending any child, their donations shall be entirely appropriated to the benefit of the clergymens children.

REASONS

R E A S O N S

G I V E N F O R

Each ARTICLE contained in the Plan of Education.

Article

I. IT is easy to prove the difficulty, not to say impossibility, of procuring a compleat education for a youth in a less space of time than nine years: it is on this account, that any person who turns his whole attention that way, must (if he hopes to have his work crowned with success) desire to begin it himself, and consequently to have children (if possible) of six, seven, or at most eight years old. It is more difficult to eradicate bad impressions, or to alter false strokes of the chissel, than to bring forward a tender shrub, or to smooth a block of the hardest marble. Pygmalion had never been so much enamoured with his statue, and the gods would not have animated it, had any other hand made the first sketch. I desire no better fortune than his, may my wishes be fulfilled.

II. That the master's eye may see and watch over every thing, his horizon must be bounded, lest his sight should err; on this account, (convinced what one man can comprehend,) I have limited the number of young gentlemen to One Hundred and Eighty, also having calculated what my large territory will contain, without crowding my little inhabitants, and that they may breath without constraint the free air. Besides, if it was necessary or useful for the benefit of the academy, to take in a

larger compass of ground, I can easily do it in the same manner as I form the infirmary, by opening a communication with a neighbouring house, which I am promised if required.

- III. One Hundred Guineas per annum may appear at first sight a large sum, but when a computation is made of what common boarding costs, besides the best masters in every science (which may be commanded here;) when the advantages of the academy are considered, and the benefit that each child procures imperceptibly to the other adopted children, and the suppression of all those numerous extra-expences which frequently exceed the ordinary one, gentlemen will soon be undeceived.
- IV. The ministers of the Lord in all ages and in all religions have been justly the objects of mens veneration, their sacred institution, which renders them mediators between God and man, throws on them a ray of light which naturally attracts our respect. The clergy of England in general, have always had the preference in my regard, but with grief have I seen a great part of the worthy members of this respectable body suffering from the injustice and inequality of fortune; frequently their merit is clouded o'er, let us assist them then without offending their modesty, let us repair the injuries of fortune by helping these friends of mankind, every one of us in proportion to our abilities; and as they are also our spiritual guides, let us bring up their children in the principles of Knowledge, of Light, and of Virtue; happy if I can encourage other heads of Academies to pay so due a tribute to their holy labours.
- V. The subscribers children are admitted at any age, to conform to the will of their relations, but the others cannot be admitted if more than nine years old.

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- VI. If the subscribers approve this Plan, here is the good work to which they will themselves principally contribute; how pleasant will it be for their children, to live with other children, who will owe at that early time of life, a part of their happiness to them. These dear little friends will grow up under the shade of their benefactors, and their benefactors will see and be pleased with their own deeds: Friendship will increase with Esteem, Esteem with Age; and this mixture of blessings will prepare for their lives such sweets as will overpower the future bitterness of it.
- VII. It is easy to shew the benefit that will accrue to the children by lying alone, besides its being wholesome, their sleep is more quiet; and laying on a matras instead of feathers, is infinitely healthier, and more proper for a man.
- VIII. Every one is acquainted with the advantages that will result from the children eating bread made at home, bread made of choice flour, well kneaded, well baked, and free from adulteration; as this is their principal nourishment, the quality of the blood depends on its goodness, therefore I shall say no more on this head.
- IX. The beer has the same consequences; as besides its cleanliness, it will be of a proper degree of strength for the children.
- X. The butter made every day, being always fresh, is more agreeable and wholesome.
- XI. The milk for its purity, and always being ready at hand.
- XII. Washing at home is more for the advantage of the linnen, as well as more convenient for its being mended.
- XIII. A cold bath; the use of it is extremely strengthening, prevents many disorders, uses one to cleanliness; and may, by introducing warm
water

water occasionally, become a pleasure-bath, in which the children may learn to swim without danger; a point of importance.

XIV. The concerts will form their ear to measure, and their taste to harmony, it will render them agreeable and useful both to society and themselves; it will accustom them to reflexion (it is said, that the present King of Prussia when he meditates any great project, takes a flute, plays a tune, and breaks it when he has fully digested his design) they will fill up the vacancy of many irksome minutes in life, and prevent our being so easily drawn into vices, and consequently spare us several uneasy reflexions.

XV. A play will dispose them to speak French with facility, to pronounce it well, will excite them to learn it sooner, will give them a noble confidence in speaking in public, and assist them in becoming orators.

XVI. The rewards bestowed on merit will excite their emulation; good books will form their taste for literature, and make them conceive early a small plan of a library; a crown of laurel put upon their heads will flatter their self-love, and on many future occasions they'll recollect the pleasure these laurels have procured them, which will excite them still to gather fresh ones. These crowned heads will thus go and enjoy their triumph in the center of their families, and repose themselves for a time on their laurels, for this ceremony will precede the holidays.

XVII. These frequent walks, besides their healthfulness, will be of use for the contemplation of Nature, for the animals, insects, reptiles, birds, plants, minerals and fluids, will be shewn and explained to them; also the buildings, ruins, hills and vallies,
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their relations and uses ; the cultivation of the earth will also be considered ; after having looked under their feet, their eyes will be raised towards the sky, paved with so many wonders, the courses and influences of the stars will be demonstrated, the three astronomical systems compared ; finally, we shall explain to them the mysterious arch of alliance, the colours of Iris, and unfold for them by degrees, the veil which covers the greatness and majesty of the Creator ; then, like bees, extracting the juicy sweets of every flower, they will render this time both useful and agreeable.

XVIII. An infirmity : it may easily be conceived, that the children will be dear to me, I am engaged to them both by duty and inclination.

XIX. In my opinion, the rod seldom has a proper effect on children, they hate the corrector and despise the correction, but shame touches them to the very heart, renders them circumspect, and produces a kind of noble pride, which operates more effectually. On this account I intend to make them judges of each other, to accustom them to justice and compassion, to a respect for Laws and Virtue, and to render them capable of judging themselves early in life, and consequently not to do to others what they would not chuse to have done to themselves ; by this means, those who may be destined to sit on the Bench, will early have formed an idea of justice and mercy, which may also be a means of leading youth in the paths of Wisdom.

XX. On the choice of a minister learned and enlightened, but mild, modest and compassionate, depends the purity of the childrens morals ; he ought to enlighten, without dazzling them, and to make Religion a gentle refuge, and not a gloomy scare-crow : such is the man whom I want ; to obtain such a friend, I do not

spare

spare expence, the salary assigned shews it, which I will increase annually should his cares increase.

XXI. The sight of poor people appears to me to be one of the most essential points of the foundation for moving the heart ; I hope to render the children happy in procuring them the pleasure of dispensing happiness to others, the custom of it which they will contract, will shoot the more easily in their hearts from being sowed there by the flattering hand of Self-love. Habits are generally formed in tender years ; it is the recital of misfortunes, and the sight of the wretched, which form the habit of Benevolence, and render a man beneficent. The smiling and comforted face of the poor, will accustom them early to smooth the wrinkles of the unhappy, and to dry up the tears of the afflicted : the repeated blessings that will be heaped on their heads will surely be confirmed by the Divinity. They will be used not to turn away their eyes from rags, and will know that the Majesty of Humanity is frequently hid under these ruins.

The poor will not be beggars in the streets, nor such as are dirty, lest they might bring some disorder or infection into the house, but honest people in misfortune or in want ; the respect they will be treated with, will give them no cause to blush at their reception.

XXII. The masters will be obliged to conform to the intentions of the founder, that is to say, to be assiduous, tender, patient, and to make use of that grand communicative talent, Gentleness.

XXIII. The whole attention of this academy will be reduced to three points, to make the Senses, the Understanding, and the Will, contract good habits. These are the sum of Morality, and are the three pivots on which the education of youth should turn.

CONDITIONS,

CONDITIONS, &c.

THE academy will not be opened, nor any gentleman admitted, until the number of subscribers amounts to One Hundred. But as soon as this number is compleat, the Twenty clergymens sons will be chosen.

The house will be ready for the reception of the young gentlemen in three months after the subscription is closed.

In case the number of subscribers shall exceed One Hundred, the number of clergymens sons will increase proportionally, every five subscribers producing the nomination of one.

But it is not intended at present that the number of subscribers shall exceed One Hundred and Fifty.

No day-scholars will be admitted on any account whatsoever.

Should the subscription be compleated in the course of January, the academy will be opened the Tenth of April next. If the subscription is not filled by the end of May, the design will not take place; and the money advanced will be returned by the Banker.

The first gentleman who honours me with a subscription, will have the right of nominating a clergyman's son, for I shall esteem him as the patron and founder of the academy; it is a respect which I think due to his protection, which I shall never solicit, nor that of my other subscribers (regarding them as my judges, whom it would be improper to solicit) but whose protection I shall endeavour to deserve.

Every subscriber that shall have two children, two nephews, or two of the same name at the academy, shall have a right to nominate one clergyman's son; and though I reserve the others to myself, yet such of

the Subscribers as have either one of their own relations, or any particular friend to recommend, I shall always prefer to any friends of my own; only desiring, that as far as circumstances will admit, they should belong to a numerous family, and from the country, the clergymen there having fewer opportunities of advancement than those in cities, in such case my intention will be answered.

The subscription will be One Hundred Guineas per annum for each young gentleman. As the nature of this establishment will require a considerable sum at the beginning, as well as a great expence in carrying it on, I am obliged to expect Ten Guineas entrance, and the like sum on quitting the academy.

The subscriptions will be received by *Chambers & Co. New Bond Street* banker, who will always be the treasurer for receiving the money, and will give receipts agreeable to the power he has from me.

Each young gentleman must bring with him a spoon, a pint mug and porringer of silver, marked with his arms or cypher, as their table is intended to be genteely furnished.

The porringer will serve them for breakfasting, at dinner for their soup, and often at supper for rice or vermicelli.

They will be at liberty to take away their plate on quitting the academy.

Monmouth-House.

January 1, 1772.

John Roney



